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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,403	12/01/2000	Masayuki Honma	35.G2686	1361

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EXAMINER	
WALLERSON, MARK E	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2626	

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/726,403	HONMA, MASAYUKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark E. Wallerson	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *31 August 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-25* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on **8/31/2005.**

2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kayano (U.S. 5,812,747).

Regarding claims 5, 22, 23, 24, and 25, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus that communicates data, via a data communication medium, with a remote image- forming apparatus storing a series of image data to be printed, the image-forming apparatus comprising: a transmitter (image data sending and receiving means) adapted to transmit (send), to the remote image-forming apparatus (other copying machine) via the data communication medium (transmission line 80 reads on data communication medium, col. 6, lines 36-65), a first data request (copying machine 1 reads on first data request) requesting (requests) that the remote image-forming apparatus (slave copying machine) transmit (send) image data (image data)

stored (stored) therein (col. 7, lines 41 -col. 8, lines 1-10), according to a request from a user of the image forming apparatus (column 4, lines 45-60; column 5, line 58 to column 6, line 22, and column 10, line 62 to column 11, line 14 and column 11, lines 59-64); and an acquisition unit (image data sending and receiving means) adapted to acquire (receive), via the data communication medium (80), data (image data) output (sent) by the remote image-forming apparatus (other copying machine) in response to the data request (receive image data from other copying machine; col. 6rlines 36-67), the data including operation mode data (copying conditions, col. 7, lines 50-67) preset (set to each slave in the context of this reference reads on preset) for the series of image data (page by page basis reads on series of image data) stored (stored) and to be printed (copying in the context of this reference reads on copying machine) in the remote image-forming apparatus (copying machine 2 reads on remote image-forming apparatus', col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 8, lines 28-48).

Regarding claim 6, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising a display controller adapted to display, on a display unit (col. 3, lines 39-54), the operation mode data transmitted from the remote image-forming apparatus (col. 6, lines 36-67) and acquired through the acquisition unit (col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 8, lines 28-48).

Regarding claim 7, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the acquisition unit acquires, via the data communication medium (col. 6,lines 36-67), the series of image data from the remote image-forming apparatus, according to the operation mode (col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 8, lines 28-48).

Regarding claim 8, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising a printing unit adapted to print the series of image data (col. 8,lines 28-48), acquired from the

remote image-forming apparatus by the acquisition unit (col. 8,lines 28-48), in accordance with the operation mode data acquired from the remote image- forming apparatus in association with the series of image data (col. 8, lines 11-48).

Regarding claim 9, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the printing unit prints out (col. 3, lines 26-38), through a storage unit adapted to store the image data (col. 8, lines 28-48), the series of image data from the remote image-forming apparatus (col. 8, lines 28-48).

Regarding claim 11, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising a code input unit adapted to input codes (col. 5, lines 51-67), and a printer controller adapted to determine whether to execute printing of the series of image data through the printing unit (col. 7, lines 27-49), based on a code input through the code input unit (col. 7, lines 27-49).

Regarding claim 12, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising: a determination unit adapted to determine whether a process in accordance with the operation mode data acquired from the remote image-forming apparatus through the acquisition unit is executable (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-10)., and an update control unit adapted to automatically update the operation mode data acquired from the remote image-forming apparatus through the acquisition unit (col. 8, lines 11- 21), in response to a determination result provided by the determination' unit (col. 7, lines 60-coI. 8, lines 1-10), and to perform a print process in accordance with the updated operation mode (col. 8, lines 28-48).

Regarding claim 13, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising an update controller adapted to update the operation mode data acquired from the remote image-forming apparatus through the acquisition unit (col. 7, lines 50- col. 8, Iines 1-10), in response to

an instruction from a user (col. 7, lines 32-40), and to perform a print process in accordance with the updated operation mode (col. 8, lines 28- 48).

Regarding claim 15, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the transmitter unit transmits, to the remote image-forming apparatus via the data communication medium (col. 6, lines 36-65), a data request requesting that the remote image-forming apparatus update the operation mode acquired from the remote image- forming apparatus by the acquisition unit (col. 7, lines 41-coI. 8, lines 1-21).

Regarding claim 18, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising a searching unit adapted to search for a remote image-forming apparatus that communicates data (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-10), and an image-forming apparatus selection unit adapted to select a desired image-forming apparatus from among candidates in a search result provided by the searching unit (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-10), wherein the transmitter unit transmits the data request via the data communication medium to the image-forming apparatus selected by the image-forming apparatus selection unit (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-48), and the acquisition unit acquires, via the data communication medium (col. 6, lines 36-65), data from the remote image-forming apparatus selected by the image-forming selection unit (col. 7, lines 50- col. 8, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 21, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the operation mode data comprises a plurality of pieces of setting data about a number of copies, a size of copy sheets, and a discrimination between one-side printing and both- side printing (col. 7, lines 32-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3, 22, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayano (U.S. 5,812,747) in view of Maruta et al (Maruta) (U.S. 6,516,157).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 22, and 23, Kayano discloses an image forming system comprising: a plurality of image-forming apparatuses (copying machines 1-3) with printing units (laser writing unit 25 reads on printing units), each image-forming apparatus (copying machine) comprising a network communication unit (image sending and receiving unit 31), and a storage unit (image memory unit) adapted to store (stored) image data (image data; col. 3, lines 26-54) received through the network communication unit (status information sending and receiving means reads on network communication unit), a data acquisition unit (image data sending and receiving means 1c, 2c, 3c) through which a first image-forming apparatus (of its own copying machine) acquires (receive in the context of this reference reads on acquires), through the network communication unit (connector 71, col. 3, lines 49-50), the image data (image data) and the operation mode data (status information) stored (store) in another image-forming apparatus (other copying machine reads on another image-forming apparatus, (col. 6, lines 36-65), according to a request from a user of the image forming apparatus (column 4, lines 45-60;

column 5, line 58 to column 6, line 22, and column 10, line 62 to column 11, line 14 and column 11, lines 59-64); and an operation mode update unit (28) adapted to automatically (col. 5, lines 39-48) update (change mode), and the operation mode of the first image forming apparatus to an operation mode in accordance with the acquired operation mode data (column 3, lines 39-54).

Although Kayano discloses storing the operation mode data in memory 27c, he does not clearly disclose storing the operation mode data and image data in the same memory.

Maruta discloses storing image data and operation mode data in the same memory (column 13, lines 12-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kayano to store the image data and operation mode data in the same memory. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kayano by the teaching of Maruta in order to simply the printing system.

7. Claims 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayano in view of Maniwa.

Regarding claim 10, although Kayano does not disclose an erase controller, Maniwa discloses an erase controller (col. 17, lines 35-53) adapted to perform an erase process on a series of already printed image data stored in the storing unit (col. 19, lines 61-coI. 20, lines 1-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Maniwa due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to prevent the dimculty of expanding a system by adding 1/0 devices each based on different specifications.

With respect to claim 14, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the transmitter unit transmits, to the remote image-forming apparatus via the data communication medium (col. 6, lines 36-65), thereof corresponding to the operation mode data acquired from the remote image-forming apparatus through the acquisition unit (col. 7, lines 41-col. 8, lines 1-10).

Although Kayano does not disclose a data request requesting that the remote image-forming apparatus erase the series of image data, Maniwa discloses a data request requesting that the remote image-forming apparatus erase the series of image data (col. 19, lines 61-col. 20, lines 1-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Maniwa due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to prevent the difficulty of expanding a system by adding 1/0 devices each based on different specifications.

8. Claims 16, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayano in view of Fukuta (U.S. 6,226,095).

Regarding claim 16, Kayano discloses the remote image-forming apparatus comprises a storage unit (col. 6, lines 41-46).

Although Kayano does not disclose a plurality of storage areas that store different pieces of image data, Fukuta discloses that includes a plurality of storage areas and stores, in the areas, image data to be printed, with different pieces of the image data stored from area to area (col. 20, lines 46-58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Fukuta due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to minimize the influence on print

jobs for the remaining printing devices and also to suppress an increase in resources necessary for this operation.

Regarding claim 17, Kayano discloses an image-forming apparatus further comprising wherein the acquisition unit acquires, from the remote image-forming apparatus via the data communication medium (col. 6, lines 36-65). Although Kayano does not disclose a storage selection unit or the acquisition unit acquires a series of image data from within a selected storage area, Fukuta discloses a storage area selection unit adapted to select a desired storage area from among the plurality of the storage areas in the storage unit in the remote-forming apparatus (col. 20, lines 46-58), a series of image data within a storage area selected by the storage area selection unit, from among the plurality of the storage areas (col. 20, lines 46-58).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the ad at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Fukuta due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to minimize the influence on print jobs for the remaining printing devices and also to suppress an increase in resources necessary for this operation.

Regarding claim 19, Kayano does not disclose wherein the remote image-forming apparatus stores a series of image data from a host computer.

Although Kayano does not disclose the remote image-forming apparatus storing image data from a host computer, Fukuta discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the remote image-forming apparatus stores a series of image data from a host computer (col. 8, lines 28-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Fukuta due to the references

disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to minimize the influence on print jobs for the remaining printing devices and also to suppress an increase in resources necessary for this operation.

Regarding claim 20, Kayano does not disclose wherein the remote image-forming apparatus stores a series of image data from the host computer, in association with operation mode data set in the host computer. However, Fukuta discloses an image-forming apparatus wherein the remote image-forming apparatus stores a series of image data from the host computer (col. 8, lines 28-41), in association with operation mode data set in the host computer (col. 7, lines 56-63). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano and Fukuta due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to minimize the influence on print jobs for the remaining printing devices and also to suppress an increase in resources necessary for this operation.

9. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayano in view of Maruta as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Maniwa (U.S. 5,933,584).

Regarding claims 2 and 4, Kayano as modified discloses an image-forming system wherein the operation mode update unit updates the operation mode (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-21), and the acquired image data and the operation mode data (col. 7, lines 50-coI. 8, lines 1-21).

Although Kayano as modified does not disclose the acquired image data and the operation mode data are erased, Maniwa discloses and the acquired image data and the

operation mode data (Kayano reference: col. 7, lines 50-col. 8, lines 1-21) are erased after the acquired image data is printed out (col. 17, lines 40-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kayano, Maruta, and Maniwa due to the references disclosing networked image forming apparatuses to prevent the difficulty of expanding a system by adding 1/0 devices each based on different specifications.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

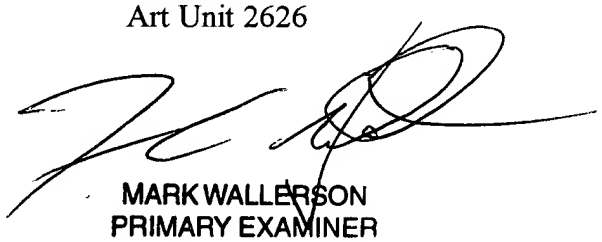
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark E. Wallerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7470. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday - 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark E. Wallerson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626



MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER